ciency of instructional material in primary schools which function as demotivating factors for enrolment and retention, called for a drive symbolically called "Operation Blackboard" for substantial improvement in the quality of primary school, the scheme was started in 1987-88 to bring all existing primary schools in the Country to a minimum standard of physical facilities by providing them with:—

(i) At least two reasonably large all weather rooms alongwith separate toilet facilities for boys & girls.

(ii) At least two teachers as far as possible one of them a woman; and

(iii) Essential teaching and learning material including blackboards, maps, charts, a small library, toys and games and some equipment for work experience.

(b) and (c) Initially the target of the scheme was to cover 20 per cent blacks/municipal areas during 1987-88, 30 per cent in 1988-89 and remaining 50 percent during 1989-90. However due to constraint on resources phasing had to be extended. In the period 1987-88 to 1993-94 the scheme could be implemented in 6397 (100 percent) blacks of the country comprising 99.9 per cent primary schools. It is proposed to cover the remaining about 500 schools 0.1 percent during 1994-95.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

To evaluate implementation and impact of the scheme, NCERT and four other external agencies were entrusted with the evaluation of the first phase of operation Blackboard schemes. The main findings of these evaluation reports are:—

—The scheme has helped in improving the physical facilties in the primary schools;

—The pace of construction of school buildings has, however not been very satisfactory;

—Provision of the basic facilities under Operation Blackboard has been appreciated by teachers, pupils and community at large;

—The utilisation of teaching learning material, however, has not been very satisfactory because of lack of training of teachers;

—Operation Blackboard schools were found to be better off than non Operation Blackboard school.

(f) Based on the external evaluation of the scheme and the past experience certain modifications in the methodology of implementation of the scheme have been brought out. These are:—

(i) Sufficient flexibility has been provided in the scheme for purchase of equipment.

(ii) As far as possible purchase of equipment will be decentralised to the district level and quality control will be emphasised.

(iii) The training of teachers has been built in the centrally sponsored scheme of Teachers education.

(iv) It has been made mandatory that at least 50 per cent woman teachers are appointed.

Central Sanskrit University in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

6110. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a Central Sanskrit University in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the University;

(c) how much financial provision has been maid for this University; and

(d) whether Government would consider setting up of a Central Sanskrit University in Maharashtra?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Number of Universities in the Country

6111. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Universities in the country as on 1st April, 1994;

(b) what is the total strength of students in each such University;

(c) the Universities which do not have a regular Vice-chancellor; and

(d) what is the Policy of Government with regard to the setting up of new Universities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) According to the information furnished by AIU, there are 211 University institutions including 10 Institutions of National Importance vested with the authority to award degrees in the country as on 1-4-94.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Central Universities are established by Acts of Parliament in response to certan historical, cultural and Centre-State considerations.

Grants given to central urdu Universities

6112. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how may Central Urdu Universities are there in the country;

(b) how much grants are given to such universities; and

(c) what is being done to encourage Urdu education in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): a) At present, there is no Central Urdu University in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government constituted Taraqqui-E-Urdu Board in 1969 to advise the Government on promotion and development of Urdu Language. The recommendations of the Board are implemented through the Bureau for Promotion of Urdu. The main activities of the Bureau include publication of Urdu books and glossaries of technical terms; compilation of Urdu Encyclopaedia; provision of financial assistance to recognised institutions for activities relating to promotion of Urdu Language.

Unsatisfactory functioning of Aligarh Muslim University

6113. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the serious concern expressed by the Executive Committee of the Aligarh Muslim University Old